



THE TOWN OF Fenwick Island

Winter 2022 Newsletter

FENWICK ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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TOWN OF FENWICK ISLAND

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IMPORTANT DATES

Next Town Council Meeting:

January 28, 2021 @ 3:30pm

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR... FENWICK ISLAND'S GOALS FOR 2022

A new year is always filled with anticipation. But before going forward, the Council would like to look back to express its appreciation for the Town's enthusiastic staff members and community volunteers who have helped to lay the groundwork for the current positive changes. Without this effort and support, progress would not have been possible. So a big "thank you" goes out to everyone for Fenwick's accomplishments during the prior months. Now the Council is preparing to use this "wind at their backs" to move forward with future goals.

According to Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time." As such, here are some of the steps (in alphabetical order) we are looking to take in 2022:

Bayside Flooding: Perhaps the biggest problem facing the Town, a.k.a. bayside flooding, will require many "steps" to resolve. Thanks to the efforts of the Infrastructure Committee, a Resiliency Study will soon produce long needed recommendations for improving storm water runoff. Tidal surge flooding, another form of that same problem, will also require special mitigation strategies. In addition, the FI Public Works crew has been busy replacing ineffective and aging drainage valves that exacerbate street and property flooding. Fenwick intends to use available ARPA grants to fund the projects.

Code enforcement: The Charter and Ordinance Committee (C & O) members have tackled this with a multi-faceted approach that includes reviewing current concerns as well as a professional codification appraisal. Various Town committees are also looking at specific issues to be further considered by the C & O Committee. All recommendations from the C & O must go to the Council for final approval.

Dredging the Canal Exits: Although disappointed by recent attempts to locate a site for "dredged soil" deposits, the Dredging Committee has moved forward with consideration of another promising location. Currently, the Town is waiting on results from required soil testing by DNREC and archeological studies by the Army Corps of Engineers. More announcements about progress are expected in the coming months.

Dumpsters: Recommendations from several committees (Residential, Commercial Development and Beach) have prompted a review of current dumpster ordinances. As a result, a letter outlining the regulations has been sent to all existing businesses, which now are on notice to comply with the rules. In addition, committees have sent suggestions to the C & O Committee regarding dumpster proposals for future commercial construction. Plus, the Beach Committee has tackled the problem of overflowing trash containers at the beach ends with plans for additional trash pickups as well as new, attractive trash bins constructed by the Town's Public Works crew.

Sidewalks: Granted some changes have required a few more "steps" than others, such as the construction of the Town's sidewalks along Route 1, which have been under consideration for the best part of two decades. However, the Pedestrian Safety Committee will shortly be reviewing the final contract for a five to six block construction phase of sidewalks along Route 1, to begin hopefully in the fall. Although some Reality Transfer Tax (RTT) money has been set aside for construction, most of the funding has been made possible with the assistance of State Representative Ron Gray and a possible grant from Sussex County.

Wind turbines: A big push by foreign wind companies is a serious concern that will no doubt impact Fenwick's future. We are not talking about plans for one or two giant wind turbines along Fenwick's horizon, but rather hundreds which threaten to destroy not only our piece of paradise but also a very fragile marine environment. The Environmental and Beach Committees are looking into ways to counter these unwelcome changes.

Workshops: Luke Mette, Fenwick's new Town Solicitor, recently offered FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) training sessions for Council Members as well as the Town's staff, including the FI Police Department. Above all else, we share in the belief that your town must operate with an open, transparent government process. Moreover, the Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission members took part in similar training to insure that all the State rules and guidelines are followed during their meetings.

Your Involvement: As an added but important addition to this report, please note that your input is welcomed and appreciated. Please refer to the Town's website (fenwickisland.delaware.gov) to keep informed about dates/times for future Town Council and committee meetings.

Best regards, Vicki Carmean, FI Mayor



The Fenwick Island Police Department wishes all a Happy & Safe New Year!

While this is mostly a quiet time of year in the beach community, it is important to remain vigilant. When leaving the area, residents should secure and winterize their properties. FIPD continues patrols of the neighborhood looking for potential issues, frozen pipes and water leaks. We also conduct property checks of our vacant residences and any businesses during the winter months to ensure they are safe and secure. We ask that you contact us if you are alerted by security cameras or observe any suspicious activity. Make sure the Town has updated contact information so we may contact you if we find your residence is not secure or an issue occurs.

-Chief John Devlin

On-Duty Cell (non-emergency):

302-542-8793

Dial 911 for any emergency!



FROM THE POLICE CLERK'S OFFICE

Please be advised parking permits will be mailed out the first week of March. As in past years, each property on record with the Town will receive 1 hang tag and 2 parking stickers.

If you do not receive your parking pass, please contact Erin Ellinger at 302-539-3011 x212. The parking pass number that was originally mailed to you will then be listed as a voided number and a new parking pass will be issued to you. Be aware: the voided number list will then be given to the Police Department for issuance of parking violations if any of those numbers are then used!

From the Town Manager's Desk

The holidays are behind us and the New Year brought us the first snow storm of the year! The Public Works Department was out in full force clearing the Town streets before it could turn to ice the next morning. A big thanks to Mike Locke, Bryan Reed and John Farrace for a job well done!

The Town remains fully staffed even as we deal with COVID outbreaks amongst employees. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Town issues, I strongly urge you to contact myself, Chief Devlin, Mike Locke or Raelene Menominee. Your concerns or questions will be answered promptly!

Happy New Year, Pat Schuchman

Charter & Ordinance Committee Update

The C&O Committee, chaired by Council Member/Secretary Natalie Magdeburger, has been conducting monthly meetings since its members, Mike Quinn, Jacque Napolitano, Jay Ryan, Ann Riley, John Nason, Roy Williams were appointed by the Mayor. The committee is working on subject matters that speak to the issues of height of buildings, setbacks, shuttles, mechanicals, dumpsters, commercial use of residential property and pods. One proposed ordinance that clarifies that mechanicals on the roof in commercial properties are to be measured as part of the overall height of a building for purposes of height restrictions (which is already specifically codified with residential properties) has had a first reading as well as a public hearing and will be voted upon by Town Council for acceptance at the January 28th Town Council meeting. Three additional proposed ordinances have been approved by the C&O Committee and are being prepared for first readings to be presented to Town Council. These proposed ordinances involve banning shuttles from Fenwick Island, requiring commercial setbacks for mechanicals from the rear property line to be consistent with residential setbacks for mechanicals (10 feet as opposed to 6 feet) and clarifying that residential properties cannot be used for commercial purposes, including parking of vehicles. The C&O Committee has also engaged a nationally recognized code company to re-codify the Fenwick Island Code which should help make it easier for everyone to read and understand.

-Natalie Magdeburger

Residential Advocacy Update

The Residential Advocacy Committee is off to a great start due to the support of our volunteer committee members, Town Council and your support. The Committee has heard your concerns and asked the Town Council to review the following issues:

- . Commercial Parking on Residential Properties
- . Housing for Employees of Businesses in residential homes
- . Enforcement of Ordinances and Codes for Commercial Dumpsters

Currently, the Committee members are working on the following projects:

- . Welcome packets for all new Fenwick Island neighbors
 - . Beautification projects to enhance the quality of life in Fenwick Island
 - . Events to encourage inclusiveness in our Community
- Please send us your suggestions regarding how we can improve our lovely beach community. We need volunteers who are interested in helping your Town for future generations. **Thank you, Happy New Year! Janice Bortner**

JOIN FENWICK ISLAND BEACH PATROL - FIBP is looking for athletes that are interested in a summer job as an Advanced Certified Ocean Rescue Lifeguard. Recruits are trained and certified in Open Water.

Rescue & Medical Response. All training is paid! You must be 16 years old or older at time of hire.

Contact Captain John Rykaczewski at beachpatroldcaptain@fenwickisland.org



Well over 100 people attended the Fenwick Freeze on Jan 1st to celebrate the new year. The weather cooperated by holding back the rain and allowing the returning "swimmers" to warm up on the beach via a balmy 55 degree temperature.

The Beach Committee would like thank everyone who participated, including those who valiantly cheered on those who plunged. It was a positive and entertaining way to bring our community together at the start of 2022.

A number of *thank you's* should also go out to those who helped organize this event, beginning with Beach Patrol Captain "Ryk" Rykaczewski, the Master of Ceremonies who wisely chose to direct the swimmers from dry land. In addition, we want to recognize Mike Locke and his crew from Public works who set up the event, FI Corporal Steven Majewski who was available to provide needed assistance, and the Bethany Beach Fire Company EMS who were more than ready for any medical emergencies.

Some beach towels remain available as well as a few small T-shirts. Both are for sale at \$25 each at the Town Hall or online via the Town's website.

Submit your artwork to the Beach Committee by April 1st to have it selected to be put on the Town Bonfire t-shirts and receive a beach surprise!!

Jacque Napolitano, FI Council Member & Beach Committee Chair

Infrastructure Committee Report

Off to a quick start, the committee began by reviewing GIS mapping and Resiliency Study proposals from two engineering firms. After a detailed analysis, the group recommended the AECOM proposal for Council's approval for two reasons: 1. This plan was less expensive 2. It could be completed quicker because it incorporated data from previous studies. AECOM now has begun the required work that Fenwick needs to mitigate the ever increasing tidal flooding we are experiencing due to coastal storms, global warming and sea level rise. Once the study is completed, projects can be planned that will alleviate not only the current flooding problems but also those in decades to come. Property owners are always welcome to bring their questions to future Infrastructure meetings. **Thank you, Richard Benn**

Financial Update

The Town of Fenwick Island continues to strengthen its financial position. Total cash as of November 30, 2021 was \$4.4 million, which is a \$1.1 million increase from the July 31, 2021 balance. Fenwick typically has positive cashflows between August and November. The Town has experienced a larger than expected increase in cash due to the high volume of building permit fees and lower than anticipated monthly expenses. We currently believe the Town remains on target to meet its net operating budget goal for the twelve months ending July 31, 2022. Feel free to contact Town Hall for additional financial information.

Thank you! **Bill Rymer**